SUMMER — 1953

CPAC Newsletter

METROPOLITANIA

The ponderous title above, has not been chosen arbitrarily; it is meant to convey the sense of bigness, of bursting city boundaries which seem to be the hope and ambition of many. "We have now the biggest city in Canada," "2,000,000 by '73" crows a new Super-Mayor.

What worries us is not the fact that a large city, because of a lack of urban planning and faced with a merger as the only solution to its woes, succeeds at last, flexes its muscles and feels complacent about it. What the planners will fear is that too many conurbations will think that all their troubles can be cured in the same way; one has but to read the news to find that from the Maritimes to the Rockies plans are afoot to federate, to amalgamate or, in the less polite way, to annex. It is not our purpose to condemn hastily — the process is too recent for that; new techniques will have to evolve from the myriads of problems emerging; research will be undertaken with new data. Who knows? Maybe the key to better municipal financing will be found!

Thus it is logical to hail consolidation of industrial wealth in the whole metropolitan area as a distinct advantage, contributing in return to better distribution of educational burdens. Better community planning and better solutions of basic engineering problems, such as water and sewer services, are likely to be great advantages.

But what about cost? At the annual meeting in Calgary last year a member of the panel of experts proved with figures and statistics that the large city is much more expensive to operate than the middle sized one.

What about human values? A large city is a monster which has grown beyond the power of man. To survive it must work like a machine. Robots usurp the individual's will and the bigger the city the lesser the free choice; huge institutions dispense their virtues, anonymously; charity becomes a science and "Love thy neighbour" is a business. Neighbour? In the midst of these millions of humans — there is no neighbour.

What about quality? What is more tedious, uninspiring than these miles on miles of Super Minimum Houses cum TV Antennas? A grey banality insensitive to the land is the rule; for no built-up area, however plush, can compare with nature, with the open landscape.

Thus the cautious planner will sacrifice bigness in order to limit growth and provide for green belts and parkways;

Press Digest

Summary of Planning Activities in Alberta

A growing number of Alberta municipalities are engaged in town planning activities. There are presently four cities, eighteen towns, and eight other municipalities preparing general plans. While the major centres of Edmonton and Calgary have their own professionally-staffed planning departments, the smaller municipalities have obtained technical advice either by requesting the assistance of the Town and Rural Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs or by participating with adjoining municipalities in district planning commissions which have technical staffs.

There are presently some fifty-eight full-time employees engaged in planning work in the province; seventeen of these are professionally trained. The number of trained technical personnel is continuing to grow. Medicine Hat has recently hired a town planner. The Town of Brooks is advertising for an engineer-planner.

The Town and Rural Planning Branch has completed planning surveys and reports for the guidance of the Planning Advisory Commissions and Town Councils of Ponika, Brooks, Stettler, Tofield, Grande Prairie, and Wainwright. There are requests for assistance from ten other towns and villages in the Province.

Three district planning commissions have been established. The Edmonton and Calgary District Planning Commissions include both the rural and the urban municipalities in the areas surrounding the cities. In Central Alberta the City of Red Deer and the adjacent Municipal District have formed the Red Deer District Planning Commission. At the present time negotiations are under way between the City of Medicine Hat and the Town of Redcliff to set up the fourth district planning commission in the Province.

Approximately a quarter of a million dollars will be spent on planning this year in Alberta — over ten times that amount spent only four years ago. Local governments have recognized that successful planning requires adequate funds and the provincial government has made a definite commitment to pay one-half the budget of any district planning commission, to provide free advisory service to those municipalities that cannot belong to a district planning commission, and to pay one-half the cost of certain expensive but necessary items such as aerial photographs and contour maps.

Planning in Alberta is carried on under the Town and Rural Planning Act. This year a new act, the Town and Rural Planning Act 1953, was passed which is a complete revision and restatement in terms of modern planning thought of the former much-amended Act.

Fort Saskatchewan

Town of Fort Saskatchewan — situated 17 miles downstream from Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan river, is girding itself for the impact of the Sherritt-Gordon Nickel Refinery. A local planning board (Interim Development) has been formed and has been instrumental in preparing a residential sub-division to accommodate the expected influx of population. The sub-division is of the open lay-out type without lanes and with foot and vehicular traffic separated as much as possible. In addition the town has organized on its own land a 14 acre planned industrial sub-division to accommodate smaller industries which will be servicing the new primary industry. The town of Fort Saskatchewan is a participating member of the Edmonton District Planning Commission and receives regular technical planning assistance.

Harriston, Ontario

At a recent meeting of the Harriston Town Council a planning and development committee was formed and a chairman appointed.

A sum will be set aside in the estimates to finance this group.

Morinville

Town of Morinville — situated some 15 miles North of the City of Edmonton has recently taken an important step to enhance its role as a market centre for the surrounding agricultural community. Through the Sports Committee a ten acre site has been purchased for development as a central recreational park for town and district. A curling rink has already been erected and a hockey arena will be constructed within the coming year and plans have been made for tennis courts, swimming pool, hard and soft ball diamonds and picnic grounds. Planting of some two hundred Manitoba Maple and Green Ash trees is proceeding. The lay-out for the site was prepared by the technical staff of the District Planning Commission in consultation with the local planning board.

Stony Plain

The trans-mountain pipe line connecting the oil fields of the Edmonton area with the refineries of the West Coast is having an impact on the market centre of Stony Plain 20 miles west of Edmonton. The pipe line company has selected the Town of Stony Plain as the home of ten employees manning the local pumping station and maintenance crew. A new sub-division has been prepared to accommodate new houses. The town's planning board has been functioning for the past year and with the assistance of the District Planning Commission has initiated basic surveys preparatory to a general plan for the town.

Nanaimo

A new zoning plan for Nanaimo has been ordered by city council and the legislative committee has been asked to have it available by July 31 next.

West Vancouver

Town Planning Commission has submitted a report on a new type of zoning, unique in Greater Vancouver, which if adopted would consolidate several portions of existing zones under one title.

Halifax

Witnessing to an increasing public demand for action to ease Halifax's growing housing shortage, an estimated 600 people attending a public meeting in Dalhousie University Gymnasium, sponsored by the Halifax and District Ministerial Association, unanimously passed a resolution calling for efforts on four fronts to meet the problem.

It urged: A city council sponsored conference of federal, provincial and city government representatives, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and private building contractors to draft a plan for construction of at least 1,000 units within five years.

Some relaxation of regulations regarding down payments for homes to permit more prospective builders to take advantage of government aid plans.

Study of the possibility of large apartment building construction by city and private contractors.

Provincial Government participation to the extent of 12½ per cent in the cost of public housing.

Kentville, N.S.

A Town Planning Board for rural Kings has been set up by the Municipal Council. The matter came up with the discovery that if new sub-divisions are to be opened in rural areas approval must first be given by Council and such authority would have to be under the town planning Act otherwise any deeds in connection with the sale of lots could not be registered at the Deeds Office.

Lauzon

The increase in work in the local shipyard has resulted in an embarrassing housing shortage. At a meeting of the municipal council it was decided to draw the attention of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to the plight of the town.

Halifax Lacks Industrial Sites

Lack of available land for industrial sites is one of the problems faced by the City of Halifax in advertising herself to the rest of the world, City Manager August DeBard told members of the Port of Halifax recently.

Mr. DeBard said Halifax was top heavy with residences which do not pay their way.

Meaford To Provide for Elderly Persons

Meaford, busy Georgian Bay port, is helping show the way to other Ontario municipalities in solving the problem of providing low rental housing accommodation for elderly persons.

Meaford has been able to take the lead, through the generosity of Dr. John Godfrey, a former resident, who has made a gift of $30,000 with the promise of a further gift of $30,000 to come, for a large housing project in Meaford, with priority to be given elderly citizens of that town.

Sudbury

Plans of McKim township, to take steps to bring about the organization of a district planning board, recognize the fact that the city is spilling out into the township in a manner that is bound to cause serious difficulties at a later date.

The "unplanned" Sudbury district causes concern in the minds of those who foresee the development of the Sudbury Basin as an urban area. Much valuable time has already been lost, but it is not too late to halt the uncomfortable "middle age spread."

Conservation of Forest, Parkhill, Ont.

Expropriation of the 4,066-acre Pinery for protective forest purposes, and public use was recently recommended by the Advisory Board on Parks and Recreation, Ontario Department of Planning and Development, to the Ausable River Conservation Authority.

The area, part of the 'Huron Tract' sold by the Crown in 1826 to the Canada Company, has been transferred to the Pinery Corporation for private development of a cottage resort area. The Board stated subdividing all or most of the area into cottage lots is impractical and cannot be countenanced because removal of the forest in the Pinery would convert the area into a desert of blow sand. "The real need of the area is unified development with conservation as its primary aim and all use subordinated to this end," the Board's report stated.

Montreal Tunnel Plan

Two $45,000,000 to $50,000,000 six lane motor tunnels through Mount Royal to alleviate traffic congestion have been proposed to city authorities. Two miles long, the tunnels would speed six lanes of traffic from downtown Montreal to north and north east parts of the city in less than 10 minutes. The tunnels would be limited to use of cars, trucks, motor buses and trolley buses.

Burnaby

A residential subdivision of 250 homes and a shopping centre is to be constructed in North Burnaby. A 35 acre tract has been set aside also as a combined school park and playground site.

Homes For The Aged In B.C.

At a recent meeting of the B.C. Housing Foundation in Vancouver it was announced that the first buildings consisting of two two-storey buildings, each containing eight suites for married couples, and one single storey structure with four suites for single people will be ready for aged persons shortly. Five additional buildings will be erected shortly with financial assistance from the Provincial Government. Federal Government assistance is also being sought.

Sault Ste. Marie

The work of the Town Planning Board may be increased in the near future depending upon the fate of Prince township's application to city council to be included in the town planning area. This area already includes the city and the townships of Korah and Tarentorus.

Ottawa Housing Project

A town within a town will begin to take shape as soon as City Council puts its stamp of approval on a $9,000,000 building project which will have 700 dwellings and a mammoth shopping centre.

Because of the immensity of the building scheme, its consequent demand on sewage and water services, and its effect on school expansion programs, it will be limited to successive stages that will take three years to complete. Slated for completion this year are 150 housing units with an additional 200 for next year and the final 350 and the shopping centre for 1955.

An area of 31 acres is to be reserved for a huge all-purpose shopping centre with off street parking accommodation for some 1,500 cars.

When completed, the project will include 250 single dwellings designed to sell at between $12,000 and $16,000, and 450 rental units in apartments and multiple housing.

Green belts are to be included in the plans to screen the various types of housing and add to the scenic value of the project. City Planning Director, C. D. Wight reported that the developers had given assurance they would exercise great care in controlling the aesthetic features of the project.

Community Planning Bill Introduced in Newfoundland

Community Planning, the public control of building, and orderly development of both town and country areas is the object of a bill which was presented to the Legislature recently by Municipal Affairs Minister S. J. Hefferton.

Planned development of towns, cities and small communities is a comparatively new subject to Newfoundland, the Minister pointed out, but one in which a great deal of progress has been made already. Experts from mainland Canada have gone on record to the effect that Newfoundland is in the forefront among Canadian Provinces in this field.

The new Act provides for a Provincial Planning Advisory Board, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and will assist Councils and planning boards to devise and carry out plans for orderly expansion.

Provision is also made for Joint Planning Areas, consisting of both rural and urban, and including, in some cases, more than one incorporated town. The plan to expropriate land, when that becomes necessary for planned development, is also conferred by the Act. The prices paid for such land are to be fixed by a board of assessors.

Aside from community planning the Act also provides for the protection of natural beauty spots outside cities or towns. Such areas may be declared by the Government to be protected areas, and regulations to prevent their abuse enforced.

The Act also provides that the Government may order the destruction or removal of any building or other structure which was built in violation of a Municipal Plan, or contrary to any regulations made under the Act.

Conservation in Northwestern Ontario

A resolution urging the establishment of a conservation authority in Northwestern Ontario was passed at a recent session of the Thunder Bay District Municipal League held in Port Arthur city council chambers.

Formation of a joint planning board was recommended and to be comprised of representatives of the two lakehead cities and surrounding municipalities.

Medicine Hat and Redcliff

Medicine Hat and Redcliff may join forces in planning, with the Provincial government paying half the costs. If the plan is approved the district planning agency would extend to Redcliff planning services now in operation, as well as placing the land between the two municipalities under control for future development. It is also expected to enlarge the planning branch, and thus, provide additional services.

The proposal for a district planning agency was put forward by Redcliff at the suggestion of the provincial government.

Please turn to page 8

Publications for Sale —

Outlines of
CANADIAN PLANNING LAW

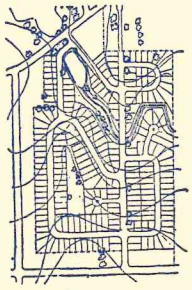
by NORAH McMURRAY

an 80-page comparative survey of existing town planning legislation in the Provinces of Canada, with appendices containing pertinent information on Quebec and Newfoundland, where no formal planning statutes are in force.

Free on request to members; non-members **50c**

HOW TO SUBDIVIDE

by HAROLD SPENCE-SALES



a 40-page handbook in four colours on the layout of housing developments, with 37 large diagrams and photos, giving a sound step-by-step method of subdivision including its financial advantages. **$1**

HOUSING MANUAL

the accumulated experience of acknowledged past masters of housing design, presented with abundant illustrations expressly for those charged with the creation of additional housing who want to do the job well. **90c**

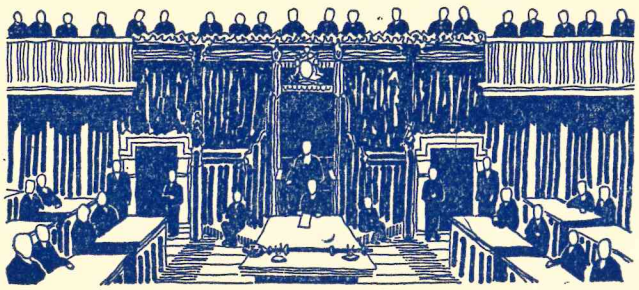
URBAN MAPPING

straighforward indication of how to get the maximum of useful information about a city on to maps with the minimum of fuss and expense, specifying the tools and tricks for those who haven't tried the task before; prepared by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, recommended by provincial planning officers. **$2**

Send remittance with each order to

COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, 169 SOMERSET W., OTTAWA 4

From the Legislators . . .



Housing Report First Quarter 1953

House-building activity continued at a high level during the first three months of 1953 when new housing starts in centres of 5,000 population and over numbered 10,500, according to the latest issue of "Housing in Canada," a quarterly report of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The figure for the first three months of this year represents an increase of 68 per cent over new housing starts in the same period of last year and indicates the continuation of a marked upswing in house-building which developed during 1952.

The report attributes the advance in the rate of house construction in 1952 to increased activity by lending institutions in the mortgage field, particularly under the joint loan provisions of the National Housing Act, for which lower down payment requirements had been introduced in October, 1951. Other factors contributing to the increase were a more adequate supply of construction materials and labour than at any time since the end of World War II, favourable weather conditions which permitted the high level of building operations to continue in the fourth quarter of 1952 and rising personal incomes which affected demand for new housing. Furthermore, there was no appreciable increase in construction costs during the year.

Although new housing starts in 1952 numbered 83,250, an increase of 21 per cent over the number for 1951, total completions declined 10 per cent to 73,100 as a result of the small carry-over of uncompleted dwellings from 1951.

With gross loan approvals numbering 25,300 for 36,400 dwelling units, more loans were approved under the National Housing Act in 1952 than in any year other than 1950. The figures represent an increase of 41 per cent in number of loans and 58 per cent in units over the 1951 totals.

The value of loans approved under the National Housing Act in 1952 amounted to $267 million compared with $152 million in 1951.

The high rate of lending continued into the first quarter of 1953 with 6,200 dwellings approved for financing, a rise of four per cent over the first quarter of last year.

At the end of January, 1953, the combined index of residential building materials and wage rates stood at 262, unchanged from October and about two per cent higher than at January 1952. This increase in the building cost index resulted from an increase of seven per cent in construction wage rates and a decrease in material prices of two per cent during the year.

Loan Provisions Widened

The government has given third and final reading to a bill increasing to $750,000,000 from $450,000,000 the amount of federal funds for home-building loans; widening provisions for federal aid in slum clearance; enlarging the loan powers of private loan companies and enabling Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a government agency, to make supplementary advances on home construction loans.

David Croll, Toronto's Spadina ". . . the government is trying to persuade people to own their own houses but is not making it possible for them to do so".

J. W. Noseworthy, CCF — York South says ". . . Canada's housing program would get nowhere until it was freed from the shackles of the finance companies".

Donald M. Fleming, PC, Eglinton declared ". . . that the municipalities were tied to the tax base given them in 1867 and were financially unable to cope with the problem. There was adequate labor and material to provide 130,000 units a year whereas actual construction fell far short of that".

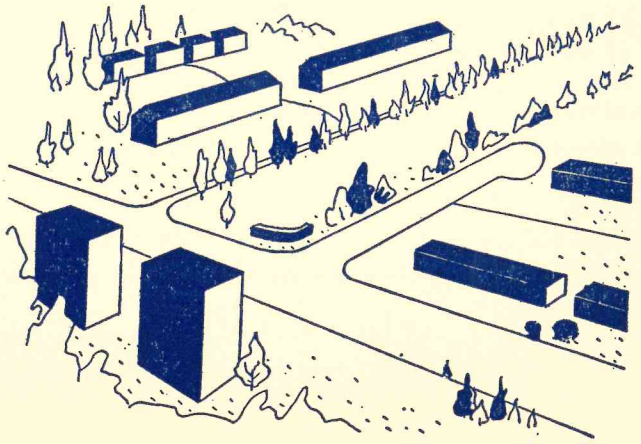
J. W. G. Hunter, L., Parkdale said ". . . the housing problem was being met and Canada had a housing record second to none in the world. He did not want to imply there was no problem, but it was not as serious as five years ago".

Mr. Rodney Adamson, York West, ". . . The municipality which is properly planned will prevent uneconomic housing developments. There are many municipalities which are just allowed to grow like Topsy, and in those municipalities there is a vicious type of development known as the ribbon development . . . This ribbon type of development is the most uneconomical type possible, because instead of having a compact housing development easily serviced you have a long ribbon of houses which require lengthy and very costly services . . .

"Nothing has been said in this act about town planning . . . and with the ribbon development, not only are we destroying the value of the land so developed but increasing the cost of highways".

Charles E. Johnston, SC, Bow River ". . . Called on the Dominion to follow the example of the Alberta Government and set up a revolving fund to lend municipalities money at 2 per cent to service land".

Senator C. G. Hawkins of Milford, Nova Scotia, told the upper house recently ". . . Real progress has been achieved under the National Housing Act toward assisting Canadians in meeting their housing needs".



CPAC LOGBOOK

BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION

Under the auspices of the Community Planning Association of Canada, B.C. Division, a meeting outlining the Master Plan for the town of Kitimat, was held recently in the Vancouver Art Gallery. Mr. J. E. Dudley, town planning and housing consultant for the Aluminum Company of Canada, was guest speaker.

Mr. Dudley stated that as experts have worked it out, Kitimat is going to be a city without any haphazard growth. Everything has been thought out in advance — or so the planners hope — and although the elected members of the newly established municipality will have the final say on the administration of the city, the Alcan hopes that the elected members will see fit to follow the advice given in the master plan.

To the layman there are a number of interesting ideas. For one thing there will be no such thing as a block system in the residential areas.

Kitimat is to be built on land that is roughly on three levels and is cut up by gorges or valleys. These valleys will be used as parklands and the houses will be built around them.

The houses themselves will largely be off the main traffic lanes, and will be built on short blind roads or on loops.

Residents will have the option when going to the neighborhood shopping centre or schools of either using the traffic highway or the sidewalks which will run through the valley parks.

This attempt to segregate the pedestrian and vehicular traffic was held by Mr. Dudley as being a safety step, and it was one which, in discussion, aroused considerable interest among local town planners.

Another point about this short street lay-out is that nearly every house will have what might be termed two fronts. One side will face the access road and another will look upon the parkland with its pedestrian lanes.

"There will be no back yards for the accumulation of unsightly junk," said Mr. Dudley who pointed out that this two front idea would compel a high measure of orderliness.

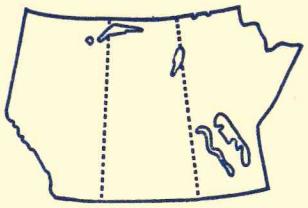
Schools have also taken an important place in the plan. No child below Grade 4 will have to walk more than a quarter of a mile to school, and below Grade 7 none will have to walk more than half a mile.

Mr. Dudley expected most people in Kitimat would be car owners. There would be a first class road connection with Terrace, about 40 miles away, and there would be roads to nearby beauty spots and picnic grounds.

Because of that the master plan saw to it that there would be adequate parking facilities in the city centre and the other shopping areas.

ALBERTA DIVISION

MANITOBA DIVISION



ALBERTA

This Division is in the midst of extensive preparation for the Annual Meeting.

A very full program has been arranged and topics of particular interest in the locality concerned are to be discussed.

MANITOBA

The Manitoba Division of the Community Planning Association of Canada has protested by letter to the Zoning Board, the City Council and the Winnipeg Town Planning Commission urging that principles of Zoning be upheld. The Division urged that if at any time it would appear that any section of the Zoning By-law required amendment that such an amendment be put into effect only with the approval of the owners and residents concerned.

The Division also appeared as a delegation before the Municipal and Public Utility Board making a similar submission. They were invited to sit in with a special committee of the City Council which is to discuss this whole matter of zoning variations.

Five meetings of the Winnipeg Town Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Commission were attended by representatives of this Division.

On behalf of the Community Planning Association of Canada, Mr. Eric Thrift met the regional staff of the National Film Board to enlist their support in the cause of Planning.

Copies of a booklet "Children and the City" by Olga Adams, were purchased and presented to the Winnipeg City School Board for kindergarten teachers at the suggestion of the Winnipeg Elementary School Superintendent who felt the books would be most helpful.

The Executive Committee have been very busy preparing final plans for Community Planning Week to be held June 1st to 6th.

NOVA SCOTIA DIVISION

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DIVISION

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. G. Claude Smith, of East Royalty, has been named director of town planning with the Provincial Department of Industry and Natural Resources, it was announced recently. He succeeds J. F. Connolly who is now chairman of the Land Valuation Board.

In addition to being town planning director, Mr. Smith will be head of the re-constituted provincial board under the Town Planning Act.

Mr. Smith is provincial chairman of the Community Planning Association.

Charlottetown

The week of May 18 was celebrated as "City Beautification Week."

This was done as a result of a suggestion from the recently formed Charlottetown Branch of the Community Planning Association of Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA

A summary of the Fourth Maritime Regional Conference findings was presented to the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Division, on Wednesday, 13 May, 1953, by John I. McVittie, Conference Committee Chairman as follows:

I. PLANNING POLICY: Recommendations which the Division may wish to place before the appropriate authorities:

1. Area or metropolitan planning should replace planning just for the individual town or city, in the interests of the wider community.

2. Traffic routes and conditions should be under study constantly, to ensure proper co-ordination with area planning and with civil defence requirements.

3. Open spaces are urged for all sections of built-up areas, to provide for assembly and evacuation of large numbers of people in the event of civil or military disaster. Existing open spaces should be preserved, and land allocated for similar purposes in new districts.

4. Subdivision lots should be extra large when it is clear that water and sewer lines will not be installed for a long time. Dwellings should be erected to one side of these larger lots so that further division into town-sized lots may be made when utilities are available.

5. Zoning policies should be developed to provide control over the design and type of buildings as well as their purposes.

6. Zoning by-laws should provide for reasonable flexibility in their application, especially in rapidly growing neighbourhoods, but such changes or modifications should not be allowed to undermine the aims of the community's master plan.

7. Districts and points of natural scenic beauty should be preserved against encroachment by buildings and other development.

8. Historic sites and buildings should be given prompt attention to allow for marking, preservation or restoration — especially in the case of peacetime treasures.

9. Plans for new or redeveloped neighbourhoods and for suburban subdivisions should provide adequate space for schools, playgrounds, and other community facilities, with due regard for safety and accessibility.

10. Public buildings such as schools and other buildings used by or open to large numbers of people should be designed and constructed with basements which will provide safe shelter in disaster emergencies.

11. Close co-operation between public housing authorities and social welfare agencies is desirable in the important change-over period for families moving out of substandard dwellings into new public housing projects; guidance and assistance should be made available, but without invading the rightful privacy and privileges of the individual families.

12. Physical planning for traffic routes must be supplemented by strict enforcement of laws and regulations relating to drivers and vehicles. Spot checking on the condition of motor vehicles without advance publicity, special license-plate markers for learning drivers, tighter control over issue of drivers' licenses, and more effective enforcement of speed limits were recommended in this connection.

II — ACTION PROJECTS: Recommendations which may suggest topics or activities for future programs of the Division:

1. Reports on the planning experience of smaller communities should be compiled for publication and distribution to other centres seeking guidance.

2. Planning boards should be given the opportunity to arrive at a clearer understanding of their powers and responsibilities, and a more thorough knowledge of the objectives and purposes of community planning. The need for developing advisory services to help planning boards, especially those in the smaller centres, was noted.

3. CPAC should encourage the building of houses and apartments under private sponsorship to meet the need of tenants who can pay economic rents, as well as building under public sponsorship to provide housing for low-income families. Attention was drawn to provisions of the National Housing Act which do not seem to be widely known and which have not been applied as often as might be expected.

CPAC LOGBOOK

QUEBEC DIVISION

RIMOUSKI

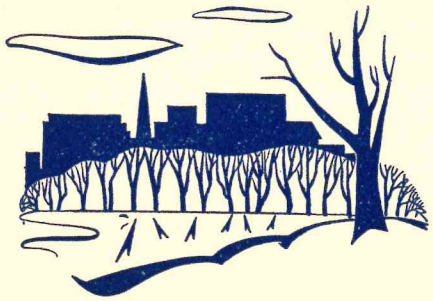
The local Branch of C.P.A.C. has organized a contest for the schools with cash prizes for the winners. Seventh grade pupils are being asked: What is the meaning of Urbanisme? What is ugly, what is beautiful in Rimouski? Why? What do you suggest to make the town more beautiful?

This very active branch of C.P.A.C. saw its council reelect Mr. Henri Labrie, president. A feminine touch was added to the Council by the appointment of Miss Lisette Morin, elected "in absentia."

ONTARIO DIVISION

The Ontario Division of the Community Planning Association of Canada and the Community Welfare Council of Ontario jointly sponsored two, one-day conferences on Housing for Elderly Persons. The first was held on March 25th in the Elsie Perrin Williams Memorial Library at London, where the City of London was joint host. The second conference was held at Queen's University on April 22nd. Officials representing all levels of government were present and the variety of requirements and types of housing accommodation available were discussed.

At the noon luncheon at Kingston, Miss Jacqueline Tyrwhitt, Visiting Professor, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto, stressed that old people should be encouraged to continue contributing to society by guiding and counselling new immigrants in their communities.



Press Digest

Shannon Park, N.S.

Construction of the Shannon Park Naval residence project, perhaps the most ambitious multiple housing scheme ever built in Nova Scotia, has been completed.

Consisting of 81 buildings in all, the Shannon Park project, which houses 521 families, was built of reinforced architectural concrete and is completely fireproof. The school for this thriving community was built of red brick while the powerhouse was constructed of concrete block.

Town Plan Endorsed

At a special meeting recently the Gloucester County Council endorsed the town planning program adopted by Bathurst Town Council.

Among the speakers who addressed the session was John A. Patterson of the provincial department of industry and development. "Town Planning is relatively new to New Brunswick," he said, "but has been in effect in the old countries for a great many years." He said that in view of the recent mining development in the area, "town planning is a must" and that the provincial government would certainly give any assistance to the project.

Halifax

Housing for rental and purchase, minimum standards, NHA provisions, recreation facilities, and community planning generally were featured topics at the Joint Union Institute held in Halifax on May 2 and 3. The course on "Labour's Role in Community Affairs," which drew attention to CPAC and other action programs for unions and their members, was led by Leslie E. Wismer, Director of Public Relations and Research for the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. Assisting was John I. McVittie, Director of Dalhousie University's Institute of Public Affairs.

Sponsors of the two-day Institute were the Education Committees of two central bodies in the area — the Halifax and District Trades and Labour Council, TLC-AFL, and the District Officers' Club of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees and Other Transport Workers, CCL — in co-operation with the Adult Education Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

Total registration for the Institute was 132, of whom 21 took the "Community Affairs" course. The five other courses dealt with collective bargaining, union education programs, and similar topics.

Sessions were held in the new Halifax County Vocational High School. Dr. M. M. Coady, Director Emeritus of St. Francis Xavier University's Extension Department, addressed the closing banquet at the Nova Scotian Hotel.

Don Mills Development

An integregated, planned community requiring a $200,000,000 investment, the largest of its kind in Canada, providing houses for 32,000 people will be located between the east and west branches of the Don River in North York. To be known as the community of Don Mills, it will be established over a six-year period by the Don Valley Development Company on a 2,200 acre site.

The community is planned to have a balanced assessment of 40% industrial and 60% residential. Land will be donated by the development company for the construction of four public and one high school.

INDUSTRIAL PLANNING

The advantages of industrial planning, with special attention to what such planning means to the welfare of a city should be quite apparent. Sound, constructive planning of industrial sites, with an eye to the future, prevents a city from "outgrowing itself."

In other words, such planning, handled in a common-sense fashion tends to keep the larger cities of the future from becoming a patchwork of industries in residential areas. Highly industrialized cities which have grown rapidly industrially, without planning benefits, have been transformed in a short time from attractive, residential communities, to cities notorious for their smoky skylines.

It is only through hard-headed practical planning, that such can be avoided in a city, while provision is still made for large-scale attractive residential areas.

The main purpose of industrial planning is prevention of a centralization of population in a strictly residential area, with industrial areas at considerable distances. Thus, workers travelling to their respective places of employment at certain periods of the day, cause traffic problems, to say nothing of the inconvenience to the general public. Generally, local planning boards propose to situate potential industrial areas at convenient locations, surrounded by a "Green Belt" — an area which is composed of commercial and multiple housing developments. It all amounts to a matter of convenience.

Special care is taken to situate potential industrial areas adjacent to main lines of major railroads, in locations where water, sewage and hydro facilities are adequate for industrial purposes. It is recommended by planning experts that industrial sites should be located on or adjacent to main thoroughfares.

London Free Press

Press Digest

Await Decision on Plan Survey

A master plan for Penticton, B.C., which will take 12 months to compile and which will guide city planners for the next 15 to 20 years, has been approved in principle by City Council. Consideration will be given to the project in finalizing of the 1953 estimate.

The plan, enthusiastically endorsed by the city's town planning commission, would be prepared by Walker & Graham, town planning consultants of Vancouver.

Town planners and members of city council met with Alexander Walker, director of the firm, and listened with interest to the outline of a scheme which would put an end to the present haphazard system of expansion and would provide a clearly defined path for city officials to follow.

Section Zoning Plan Approved

Sarnia City Council recently approved the first section of a zoning plan covering the annexed area east of the old city limit.

Walter Kelly, of the Sarnia and Suburban Area Planning Board, presented the plan, which provides for business along both sides of Ontario Street, and for light industry and warehouses in the south-east corner.

Council will consider the plan as a by-law at a later date.

Toronto

Mr. D. F. Taylor has been appointed Assistant Chief Planner with the Community Planning Branch of the Ontario Dept. of Planning and Development. Mr. Taylor was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, and was educated there, graduating from the University of New Brunswick and receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1947. Since that time, Mr. Taylor has taken two years post graduate work in "City and Regional Planning" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has acted as Assistant Director, Planning Division, with the New Brunswick Dept. of Planning and Development, and later became Director of the Planning Division, New Brunswick Dept. of Industry and Development.

Mr. Taylor's Maritime observations and technical education will be beneficial to the work of the Department.

Mr. W. R. Kinnear has joined the staff of the Department of Planning and Development as Liaison Officer. He will be a liaison between the Department and the municipalities on Land Assembly Schemes in connection with the Dominion-Provincial Housing Program. Mr. Kinnear was born in Montreal in 1913, moved to Toronto in 1921 where he continued his education until he entered the Royal Military College at Kingston in 1932. After graduating from the Royal Military College, Mr. Kinnear attended the University of Toronto; his studies were, however, abruptly brought to an end by the outbreak of war and he served overseas from 1940 to 1945, retiring as a Major in the Royal Canadian Artillery. Mr. Kinnear then continued his studies at the University of Toronto, graduating in Civil Engineering in 1948. Upon leaving University he joined the Engineering Department of the Township of York and dealt with the installation of municipal services until January 1949, at which time he became Secretary and Planning Engineer of the North York Planning Board. In the summer of 1950, Mr. Kinnear attended a course on "Zoning" at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, and during his office with the North York Planning Board, helped with the preparation of the zoning by-law which became effective in June, 1952.

Mr. Kinnear's valuable experience will be very advantageous to the work of the Department.

Montreal

The Commission to study Montreal's metropolitan problems has completed its organization under Chief Judge Roland Paquette. Great cooperation was shown among the 21 commissioners of whom 15 were from Montreal and 6 from the suburbs.

Four Committees were set up covering technical problems, finance and taxation problems, administrative systems and taxi problems. The Commission is expected to recommend a form of administration for Greater Montreal before June 1st, 1954.

Charlesbourg

Talon, in 1666, instituted in Charlesbourg its unique subdivision which is radial or "cartwheel" from the parish church. The planning and physical organization of this quaint form is in the hands of a town planning Committee headed by Paul P. Dorion with J. R. Bédard assisting as consultant.

Alma

A municipal commission on housing has been created for the realization of 200 houses in a new district of the town.

St-Lazare, St-Damien, Buckland

Citizens of these towns have subscribed among themselves for the remodelling of a common road.

Chambly County

Some fifteen mayors of the County of Chambly have been holding a series of "workshop meetings" where, on an exploratory basis, common problems have been discussed. The success of these meetings, has already resulted in some concrete accomplishment. It is now intended to find a way to incorporate, under the old County Council framework, so as to be able to achieve the real benefit of regional planning.

COMING EVENT

THE TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF CANADA

will hold its first annual Conference in the Prince Edward Hotel, Windsor, June 11, 12 and 13, 1953. For additional information write to the Secretary, 614 Church Street, Toronto.

TOWN ENGINEER

Town of Brooks, Alberta, requires an engineer. Applicants with executive training and some experience in planning preferred. Duties are to be: direction of public works program, building inspection, administration of zoning control, direction and detailing of implementation of general plan. Salary range from $4,000.00 to $4,500.00 depending on qualifications. All applications must be submitted to F. C. Elliott, Chairman, Town Planning Board, City Hall, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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The object of the Association is to encourage citizen interest in community planning. Active membership is $3.00 per year. Sustaining membership is $25.00 per year. Members receive the CPAC Newsletter or Les Nouvelles de l'A.C.U. each published four times yearly, and the bilingual quarterly Community Planning Review. Members are encouraged to become active supporters of community planning in their community. Branches have been formed in several cities for this purpose.

CPAC *Newsletter*

Mr. Stewart Fyfe,
130 Bagot St.,
Kingston, Ont.

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